

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An engine starting device includes a self-starting motor drivable to rotate the crankshaft of an engine, and a one-way clutch operable to permit transmission of rotary motion of the self-starting motor in one direction only to the crankshaft. The one-way clutch includes an inner race operatively connected to an output shaft of the self-starting motor, an outer race operatively connected to the crankshaft, a plurality of ratchet pawls pivotally connected to the inner race and urged by springs against the inner race. The one-way clutch is designed such that, when the speed of rotation of the inner race while being rotated by the self-starting motor goes up to a predetermined value, the ratchet pawls are caused to swing in a radial outward direction under the action of centrifugal force against the bias of the springs and become engaged by the outer race to thereby engage the one-way clutch.